REMARKS

Applicant elects, with traverse, Group II, comprising claims 1-6, 8, and 57-59.

Applicant's basis for the traversal is set forth below.

Claims 1-6, which comprises a portion of group (II) are directed to a prophylactic and/or therapeutic vaccine **against HIV**, comprising **Tat protein in its biologically active form, as claimed in claim 1.**

Group (I), directed to claims 1-7, 18-20, and 24, is directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)**, comprising a nucleic acid sequence **encoding for the Tat protein, as claimed in claim 1, which is part of the same Group (II).**

Group (III), directed to claims 1-6, 9, and 42, is directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II),** comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding for Tat mutants with the same characteristics of **the Tat protein as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same Group (II).**

Group (IV), relating to claims 1-6, 10, and 43, is directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II),** comprising amino acid sequences of mutants of **the Tat protein as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II).**

Group (V), relating to claims 1-6, 11, and 44, is directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)**, comprising the particularly effective portions of the amino acid sequences of **the Tat protein, as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II).**

Group (VI), relating to claims 1-6 and 12, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)** comprising **the Tat protein, as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II),** conjugated to T-helper peptides.

Group (VII) relating to claims 1-6 and 13, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)** comprising **the Tat protein as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II),** in combination with Nef, Rev or Gag.

Group (VIII) relating to claims 1-6 and 14, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)** comprising fusion proteins obtained by **the Tat protein as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II),** fused with Nef, Rev, or Gag.

Group (IX) relating to claims 1-6, 15 and 16, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)** comprising **the Tat protein as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II),** in combination with cytokines.

Group (X) relating to claims 1-6 and 17, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)** comprising fusion proteins obtained by **the Tat protein as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II)** fused with: immuno-modulant cytokines, IL-12, IL-15.

Group (XI), relating to claims 1-6 and 21-24, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)** comprising vectors expressing both **the Tat protein, as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II)** and cytokines.

Group (XII), relating to claims 1-6, 25, and 50, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II),** comprising **the Tat protein as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II),** in combination with autologous dendritic cells.

Group (XIII), relating to claims 1-6, 26, 27, and 60, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)** comprising **the Tat protein as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II)** in combination with adjuvants.

Group (XIV), relating to claims 1-6 and 28-31, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II),** comprising **the Tat protein as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II),** in combination with delivery systems.

Group (XV), relating to claims 1-6 and 32, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)** comprising **the Tat protein, as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II),** for immunizing peripheral blood cells.

Group (XVI), relating to claims 1-6 and 33, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)** comprising **the Tat protein, as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II),** combined with inhibitors of viral replication.

Group (XVII), relating to claims 1-6, 34, 35, 39, and 40, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)** comprising **the Tat protein as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II)** administered mucosally.

Group (XVIII), relating to claims 1-6 and 36-38, directed to the vaccine **against HIV of group (II)** comprising **the Tat protein as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II)** administered systemically or locally.

Group (XIX), relating to claims 1 and 45-48, is directed to an expression vector constructed to express **the Tat protein, as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II).**

Group (XX) relating to claims 1 and 61, directed to a method for treating AIDS with **the Tat protein as claimed in claim 1, which is a part of the same group (II)**, in combination with paramagnetic beads coated with anti-CD3 and anti-CD28 monoclonal antibodies.

The claims in Group III-XX should be considered as **specific applications** of a **more generalized** inventive concept relating to the vaccination and corresponding therapeutic treatment for AIDS. The inventive concept is based on the fact that a specific form of a protein of HIV virus has been found proper for an effective vaccination, namely, **Tat protein in its biologically active form and corresponding DNA encoding for it**. Such biologically active Tat according to the invention has been proven to be effective against HIV in primates.

It follows from the foregoing that **there is unity of invention** between the specific application recited in the claims of Group (II) and the others claimed in the non-elected groups in the instant Office Action, as they **are all preferred embodiments of the main** aspect of the invention.

The Applicant expressly reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected groups.

Please charge any fees which may be due and which have not been submitted herewith to our Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,

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